

**Economic and Social Council**

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Commission on the Status of Women**Fifty-first session****26 February-9 March 2007****Agenda item 3**

**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and
to the special session of the General Assembly, entitled
"Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace
for the twenty-first century"**

Lesotho:* draft resolution**Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS***The Commission on the Status of Women,*

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration¹ and Platform for Action,² the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,³ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,⁴ the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,⁵ adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session in 2001, the HIV/AIDS-related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000⁶ and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the aim of Member States to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS,

Recalling the commitment from the 2005 World Summit of developing and implementing a package for HIV prevention, treatment and care, with the aim of coming as close as possible to the goal of universal access to treatment by 2010 for all those who need it,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community.

¹ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex 1.

² *Ibid.*, annex II.

³ General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

⁴ See *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁵ General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

⁶ See General Assembly resolution 55/2.



Also recalling all previous resolutions on this subject,

Acknowledging that prevention, care, support and treatment for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response that must be integrated into a comprehensive approach to combat the epidemic,

Taking note of the Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights, as adopted by the Second International Consultation on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights,⁷

Recognizing the need to ensure the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights in the context of HIV/AIDS,

Recognizing also that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children, are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV infection,

Deeply concerned that the global HIV/AIDS pandemic disproportionately affects women and girls and that the majority of new HIV infections occur among young people,

Concerned that the vulnerability of women, girls and adolescents to HIV/AIDS is increased by their unequal legal, economic and social status, including poverty as well as other cultural and physiological factors, violence against women and girls and adolescents, early marriage, forced marriage, premature and early sexual relations, commercial sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation,

Also concerned that HIV infection rates are at least twice as high among young people, especially young and married women, who do not finish primary school as among those who do,

Further concerned that women and girls have different and unequal access to the use of health resources for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS,

1. *Stresses with deep concern* that the HIV/AIDS pandemic, with its devastating scale and impact on women and girls, requires urgent action in all fields and at all levels;

2. *Stresses* that gender equality and the political, social and economic empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and are essential to reversing the pandemic;

3. *Expresses its concern* that the HIV/AIDS pandemic reinforces gender inequalities, that women and girls bear a disproportionate share of the burden imposed by the HIV/AIDS crisis, that they are more easily infected, that they bear the disproportionate burden to care for and support those infected and affected by the disease and that they become more vulnerable to poverty as a result of the HIV/AIDS crisis;

4. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by the relevant actors, including civil society, to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in the implementation of the commitments contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,⁵ the Beijing Platform for Action² and the Programme of

⁷ E/CN.4/1997/37, annex I.

Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,⁴ and to work towards effectively reflecting in their national policies, strategies and budgets the gender dimension of the pandemic, in line with the time-bound goals of the Declaration and the Platform for Action;

5. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, integrating this goal into strategies to attain internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration⁶ aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating poverty;

6. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women, to strengthen their economic independence and to protect and promote their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection;

7. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the challenges faced by older women caring for people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, including orphaned grandchildren;

8. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen policy and programme linkages and coordination between HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health and their inclusion in national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies and sector-wide approaches where they exist, as a necessary strategy for fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic and mitigating its impact on the population, which could result in more relevant and cost-effective interventions with greater impact;

9. *Urges* Governments to strengthen initiatives that would increase the capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including for sexual and reproductive health, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and that integrate HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care and include voluntary counselling and testing, and through prevention education that promotes gender equality within a culturally and gender-sensitive framework;

10. *Also urges* Governments to ensure accessible and affordable procurement of prevention commodities, in particular microbicides and male and female condoms, to ensure that their supply is adequate and secure;

11. *Reminds* States to consider that flexibilities in trade-related intellectual property rights can be used by States when necessary to protect public health and address public health crises;

12. *Urges* Governments, where they have not yet done so, to institute and ensure the enforcement of laws to protect women and girls from early and forced marriage and marital rape;

13. *Also urges* Governments to expand access to treatment, in a progressive and sustainable manner, including the prevention and treatment of opportunistic diseases and effective use of antiretroviral medication and to promote access to low-cost effective drugs and related pharmaceutical products, in particular for women and girls;

14. *Further urges* Governments to ensure that women and girls have equitable and sustained access to treatment for HIV/AIDS and opportunistic infections, appropriate to their age, health and nutritional status, with the full protection of their human rights, including their reproductive rights and sexual health, in accordance with, inter alia, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and other relevant international human rights instruments, and to protection from coerced sexual activity, and to monitor access to treatment by age, sex, marital status and continuity of care;

15. *Requests* Governments to provide equal access for women and men throughout their life cycle to social services related to health care, including education, clean water and safe sanitation, nutrition, food security and health education programmes, especially for women and girls living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, including treatment for opportunistic diseases;

16. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls in relation to HIV/AIDS, including through challenging gender stereotypes, stigmatization, discriminatory attitudes and gender inequalities, and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys in this regard;

17. *Urges* Governments to strengthen legal, policy, administrative and other measures for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional and customary practices, abuse, early and forced marriage, rape, including marital rape, and other forms of sexual violence, battering and trafficking in women and girls, and to ensure that violence against women is addressed as an integral part of the national HIV/AIDS response;

18. *Stresses* that women should be empowered to protect themselves against violence and, in this regard, that women have the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence;

19. *Calls upon* all Governments and the international donor community to integrate a gender perspective in all matters of international assistance and cooperation and to take measures to ensure that resources concomitant with the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls are made available, in particular in funding provided to national HIV/AIDS programmes to promote and protect the human rights of women and girls in the context of the epidemic, and to achieve the gender-related goals found, inter alia, in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

20. *Calls upon* Governments to integrate HIV prevention, voluntary counselling and testing of HIV into other health services, including sexual and reproductive health, family planning, maternity and tuberculosis services, as well as the provision of services for the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections in the maternal to child transmission services for pregnant women infected by HIV;

21. *Encourages* the continued collaboration among the co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other international organizations to address and reduce the spread of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, in

particular in the context of emergency situations and as part of humanitarian efforts, and to seek actively the achievement of results for women and girls, and also encourages the mainstreaming of a gender perspective throughout their work;

22. *Requests* the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its co-sponsors, other United Nations agencies responding to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, as well as the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to integrate a gender and human rights perspective throughout their HIV/AIDS-related operations, including policy, planning, monitoring and evaluation, and to ensure that programmes and policies are developed and are adequately resourced to address the specific needs of women and girls;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in a follow-up to his December 2005 letter to the United Nations Resident Coordinators on the establishment of joint United Nations teams on AIDS at the country level, to request the United Nations Development Programme, as lead agency on technical support on gender and human rights within the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, to develop the HIV-related gender and human rights capacity for all United Nations staff providing technical assistance to Governments, to advance the national response to AIDS and to report on these efforts in 2008;

24. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to support national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in the context of the "three ones" principles, to enable the production and dissemination of comprehensive and timely information on the gender dimension of the pandemic, including through the collection of data disaggregated by sex, age and marital status, and in raising awareness about the critical intersection between gender inequality and HIV/AIDS;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite Member States to work in partnership with the Global Coalition on Women and HIV/AIDS, convened by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its partners, to mobilize and support a wide range of national actors, including women's groups and networks of women living with HIV/AIDS, to ensure that national HIV/AIDS programmes are better able to respond to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls;

26. *Urges* Governments to rapidly scale up access to treatment programmes to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV and to encourage men to participate with women in programmes designed to prevent mother-to-child transmission, to encourage women and girls to participate in these programmes and to provide sustained treatment and care after pregnancy;

27. *Encourages* the design and implementation of programmes to encourage and enable men, including young men, to adopt safe, non-coercive and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effective methods to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS;

28. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that young men and women have access to information and education, including peer education, and youth-specific HIV education, sexual education and services necessary for behavioural change, to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection and reproductive ill health, in full partnership with young persons, parents, families, educators and health-care providers;

29. *Calls* for enhanced efforts by all relevant actors to include a gender perspective in the development of HIV/AIDS programmes and policies and in the training of personnel involved in implementing such programmes, including by focusing on the role of men and boys in addressing HIV/AIDS;

30. *Encourages* Governments and all other relevant actors to promote funding, both domestically and externally, and support and expedite action-oriented research leading to affordable methods controlled by women to prevent HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, including microbicides and vaccines, and research on strategies that empower women to protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and methods of care, support and treatment for women of various ages, and to promote their involvement in all aspects of such research;

31. *Also encourages* Governments to increase the provision of resources and facilities to women who find themselves having to provide care and/or economic support for those infected with HIV/AIDS or affected by the pandemic, and for the survivors, particularly children and older persons, utilizing funds earmarked for care and support to reduce women's disproportionate burden of care;

32. *Urges* Governments to continue to promote the participation and the significant contribution of people living with HIV/AIDS, young people and civil society actors in addressing the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender perspective, and to promote their full involvement and participation in the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV/AIDS programmes, as well as in creating an enabling environment to combat stigmatization;

33. *Welcomes* the financial contributions made to date to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, urges further contributions to sustain the Fund, and calls upon all countries to encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

34. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by relevant actors, and all stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

35. *Stresses* the importance of building up national competence and capacity to provide an assessment of the impact of the epidemic, which should be used in planning for prevention, treatment and care, and for addressing HIV/AIDS;

36. *Urges* the international community to complement and supplement, through increased international development assistance, efforts of the developing countries that commit increased national funds to fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic, especially to address the needs of women and girls, particularly those countries most affected by HIV/AIDS, particularly in Africa, especially sub-Saharan Africa, and in the Caribbean, countries at high risk of expansion of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and countries in other affected regions whose resources for dealing with the epidemic are seriously limited;

37. *Decides* to consider this question further at its fifty-second session.

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Commission on the Status of Women**Fifty-first session**

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Agenda item 3 (a)

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

Pakistan:* draft resolution

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,¹

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,² in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action³ adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",⁴

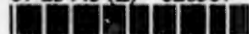
* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

¹ E/CN.6/2007/4.

² *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

³ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁴ General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.



Recalling also its resolution 2006/6 of 25 July 2006 and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women⁵ as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Recalling the importance of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003, on the prevention of armed conflict, and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, on women and peace and security,

Expressing the urgent need for the full resumption of negotiations within the Middle East peace process on its agreed basis and towards the speedy achievement of a final settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

Concerned about the grave situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, resulting from the severe impact of ongoing illegal Israeli settlement activities and the unlawful construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, as well as the severe consequences arising from Israeli military operations on and sieges of civilian areas, which have impacted detrimentally their social and economic conditions and deepened the humanitarian crisis faced by them and their families,

Expressing deep concern about the detrimental financial impact of the siege which has exacerbated the already dire socio-economic and humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women and their families,

Welcoming the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights⁶ on the issue of Palestinian mothers' giving birth at Israeli checkpoints owing to denial of access by Israel to hospitals, with a view to ending this Israeli practice,

*Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*⁷ and recalling also General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004,*

Recalling also the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁸ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights⁹ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁹ and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing its condemnation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, especially the excessive use of force against Palestinian civilians, many of them women and children, resulting in injury and loss of human life,

⁵ See General Assembly resolution 48/104.

⁶ A/60/324.

⁷ See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1.

⁸ General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.



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**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women
and to the special session of the General Assembly, entitled
"Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for
the twenty-first century"**

South Africa: * draft resolution

Ending female genital mutilation

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 56/128 of 19 December 2001, 58/156 of 22 December 2003 and 60/141 of 16 December 2005, and all other relevant resolutions, as well as the agreed conclusions adopted at the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,¹

Reaffirming that the Convention on the Rights of the Child² and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,³ together with their Optional Protocols, constitute an important contribution to the legal framework for the protection and promotion of the human rights of girls,

Reaffirming also the goals and commitments contained in the Beijing Declaration⁴ and Platform of Action⁵ and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",⁶ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development⁷ and the Programme

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group.

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 7 (E/2006/27)*, chap. I.D.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁴ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

⁵ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁶ General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

⁷ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.



of Action of the World Summit for Social Development⁸ and their five and ten-year reviews, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration⁹ and the commitments relevant to the girl child in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,¹⁰

Recalling the entry into force of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, adopted in Maputo on 11 July 2003, which marks a significant milestone towards the abandonment and ending of female genital mutilation,

Recalling also general recommendation 14 concerning female circumcision adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its ninth session, paragraphs 11, 20 and 24 (l) of general recommendation 19 concerning violence against women adopted by the Committee at its eleventh session, paragraphs 15 (d) and 18 of general recommendation 24 concerning article 12 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on women and health adopted by the Committee at its twentieth session, and taking note of paragraphs 21, 35, and 51 of general recommendation 14 concerning article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights¹¹ adopted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its twenty-second session,

Recognizing that female genital mutilation violates the human rights of women and girls,

Noting that the reports of the Secretary-General on violence against children¹² and on violence against women,¹³ respectively, single out that girls are at greater risk than boys of early marriage, genital mutilation and may experience various forms of violence throughout their life cycles,

Noting also that negative discriminatory stereotypical attitudes and behaviours have direct implications for the status and treatment of girls and that such negative stereotypes impede the implementation of legislative and normative frameworks that guarantee gender equality and prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex,

Reaffirming that harmful traditional or customary practices, including female genital mutilation, constitute a serious threat to the health of women and girls and may have fatal consequences, and that the abandonment of this harmful practice can be achieved only as a result of a comprehensive movement that involves all public and private stakeholders in society,

Recognizing that female genital mutilation is an irreparable, irreversible abuse that affects one hundred to one hundred and forty million women and girls alive today and that each year, a further two million girls are at risk of undergoing the procedure,

1. *Stresses* that the empowerment of girls is key to breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and the promotion and protection of their human rights,

⁸ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁹ General Assembly resolution 55/2.

¹⁰ See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

¹¹ General Assembly resolution 2200 (XXI).

¹² A/61/299.

¹³ A/61/122 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.

and calls upon States to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child² and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,³ as well as the commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,¹⁴ the Beijing Platform for Action⁴ and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",⁶ and of the twenty-seventh special session on children;¹⁵

2. *Emphasizes* that awareness-raising, community mobilization, education and training are needed to ensure that all key actors, government officials, including law enforcement and judicial officers, teachers, employers, media professionals and those directly working with girls, as well as parents, families and communities work to eliminate attitudes and harmful practices that negatively affect girls;

3. *Calls upon* States to strengthen advocacy and awareness-raising programmes on harmful traditional practices, especially female genital mutilation, to engage communities and religious leaders, educational institutions and families and to provide increased financial support to efforts at all levels to end these practices;

4. *Urges* States to promote gender-sensitive, empowering educational processes by reviewing and revising, as necessary, school curricula, educational materials and teacher-training programmes and by elaborating policies and programmes of zero tolerance for violence against girls, including female genital mutilation, and to further integrate a comprehensive understanding of the causes and consequences of such violence against girls into education and training curricula at all levels;

5. *Also urges* States to provide education and training on the rights of girls to families, community leaders and members of all professions relevant to the protection and empowerment of girls, such as social workers, police officers, judges, lawyers and prosecutors, in order to increase awareness of and commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of girls and appropriate responses to rights violations, with regard to female genital mutilation;

6. *Urges* Governments to ensure the national implementation of international and regional commitments undertaken as States Parties or as signatories to various international instruments protecting the fundamental right and freedoms of girls and women and also to ensure that they are translated into local languages that are widely distributed to the population and the judiciary;

7. *Urges* States to review and, where appropriate, revise, amend or abolish all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women and to ensure that provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

8. *Also urges* States to enact and enforce legislation to protect girls from all forms of violence, particularly female genital mutilation, and to develop social and psychological support services to assist girls who are subjected to this violence;

¹⁴ General Assembly resolution 48/104.

¹⁵ General Assembly resolution S-27/2, annex.

9. *Calls upon* States to develop policies, protocols and rules to ensure the effective implementation of national legislative frameworks on eliminating discrimination and violence against girls, in particular female genital mutilation, and to put in place adequate accountability mechanisms at national and local levels to monitor adherence to, and implementation of, these mechanisms;

10. *Also calls upon* States to develop unified methods and standards for data collection on all forms of discrimination and violence against girls, especially forms that are under-documented such as female genital mutilation, and to develop additional indicators to effectively measure progress in eliminating female genital mutilation;

11. *Calls upon* Governments to allocate sufficient resources to the implementation of legislation and action plans aimed at bringing about the abandonment of female genital mutilation;

12. *Calls upon* the international community, the relevant United Nations entities and civil society to actively support, through the allocation of increased financial resources, targeted, innovative programmes that address the needs and priorities of girls in vulnerable situations, such as that of female genital mutilation, who have difficulties accessing services and programmes;

13. *Encourages* all decision makers at all levels with responsibilities for policies, legislation, programmes and allocation of public resources to play leadership roles in eliminating female genital mutilation;

14. *Encourages* men and boys to continue to take positive initiatives to combat violence against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, through networks, peer programmes, information campaigns and training programmes;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, to ensure that all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, individually and collectively, take into account the protection and promotion of the rights of girls against female genital mutilation in their country programmes, as appropriate, in accordance with national priorities, so as to further strengthen their efforts in this regard;

16. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the implementation of the present resolution by using information provided by Member States and verifiable information provided by organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, with a view to assessing the impact of the present resolution on the well-being of girls.

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Commission on the Status of Women**Fifty-first session**

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**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women
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entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development
and peace for the twenty-first century"**

South Africa:* draft resolution**Ending female genital mutilation***The Commission on the Status of Women,*

Recalling General Assembly resolutions, 56/128 of 19 December 2001, 58/156 of 22 December 2003 and 60/141 of 16 December 2005, and all other relevant resolutions, as well as the relevant agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women,¹

Reaffirming that the Convention on the Rights of the Child² and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,³ together with their Optional Protocols, constitute an important contribution to the legal framework for the protection and promotion of the human rights of girls,

Reaffirming also the Beijing Declaration⁴ and Platform of Action⁵ and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",⁶ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group.

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 7 (E/2006/27), chap. I.D.*

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁴ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

⁵ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁶ General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.



and Development⁷ and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development⁸ and their five and ten-year reviews, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration⁹ and the commitments relevant to the girl child made at the 2005 World Summit,¹⁰

Recalling the entry into force of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women of Africa, adopted in Maputo on 11 July 2003, which contains, inter alia, undertakings and commitments on ending female genital mutilation and marks a significant milestone towards the abandonment and ending of female genital mutilation,

Recalling also general recommendation 14 concerning female circumcision adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its ninth session, paragraphs 11, 20 and 24 (l) of general recommendation 19 concerning violence against women adopted by the Committee at its eleventh session, paragraphs 15 (d) and 18, of general recommendation 24 concerning article 12 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on women and health adopted by the Committee at its twentieth session, and taking note of paragraphs 21, 35, and 51 of general recommendation 14 concerning article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights¹¹ adopted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its twenty-second session,

Recognizing that female genital mutilation violates, and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls,

Recognizing also that female genital mutilation is an irreparable, irreversible abuse that affects one hundred to one hundred and forty million women and girls alive today, and that each year a further two million girls are at risk of undergoing the procedure,

Reaffirming that harmful traditional or customary practices, including female genital mutilation, constitute a serious threat to the health of women and girls, including their psychological, sexual and reproductive health, which can increase their vulnerability to HIV and may have adverse obstetric and prenatal outcomes as well as fatal consequences, and that the abandonment of this harmful practice can be achieved only as a result of a comprehensive movement that involves all public and private stakeholders in society,

Noting that negative discriminatory stereotypical attitudes and behaviours have direct implications for the status and treatment of girls and that such negative stereotypes impede the implementation of legislative and normative frameworks that guarantee gender equality and prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex,

⁷ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁸ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁹ General Assembly resolution 55/2.

¹⁰ See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

¹¹ General Assembly resolution 2200 (XXI).

Noting also that the reports of the Secretary-General on violence against children¹² and on violence against women,¹³ respectively, conclude that girls are at greater risk than boys of early marriage and genital mutilation and may experience various forms of violence throughout their life cycles,

Deeply concerned about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access for girls to education, nutrition and physical and mental health care, in girls enjoying fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys and in their often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices, such as female infanticide, rape, incest, early marriage, forced marriage, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation,

1. *Stresses* that the empowerment of girls is key to breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and for the promotion and protection of human rights, and calls upon States parties to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as their commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,¹⁴ the Beijing Platform for Action⁴ and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",⁶ and of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children;¹⁵

2. *Emphasizes* that awareness-raising, community mobilization, education and training are needed to ensure that all key actors, government officials, including law enforcement and judicial personnel, health-care providers, teachers, employers, media professionals and those directly working with girls, as well as parents, families and communities, work to eliminate attitudes and harmful practices that negatively affect girls;

3. *Calls upon* States to strengthen advocacy and awareness-raising programmes, to mobilize girls and boys to take an active part in developing preventive and elimination programmes to address harmful traditional practices, especially female genital mutilation and to engage communities and religious leaders, educational institutions, the media and families and provide increased financial support to efforts at all levels to end these practices;

4. *Urges* States to condemn all harmful traditional practices, in particular female genital mutilation;

5. *Also urges* States to promote, within the general framework of integration policies, effective and specific targeted measures for refugee women and women migrants and their communities, in order to protect girl children from female genital mutilation, including when the practice occurs outside the country of residence;

¹² A/61/299.

¹³ A/61/122 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.

¹⁴ General Assembly resolution 48/104.

¹⁵ General Assembly resolution S-27/2, annex.

6. *Further urges* States to promote gender-sensitive, empowering educational processes, by, as appropriate, reviewing and revising school curricula, educational materials and teacher-training programmes, and elaborating policies and programmes of zero tolerance for violence against girls, including female genital mutilation, and to further integrate a comprehensive understanding of the causes and consequences of such violence against girls into education and training curricula at all levels;

7. *Urges* States to provide education and training on the rights of girls to families, community leaders and members of all professions relevant to the protection and empowerment of girls, such as all levels of health-care providers, social workers, police officers, legal and judicial personnel and prosecutors, in order to increase awareness and commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of girls and appropriate responses to rights violations with regard to female genital mutilation;

8. *Also urges* States to ensure the national implementation of international and regional commitments and obligations undertaken as States parties or as signatories to various international instruments protecting the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of girls and women as well as their translation and wide distribution to the population and the judiciary;

9. *Further urges* States to review and, where appropriate, revise, amend or abolish all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs, in particular female genital mutilation, that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women and girls and to ensure that provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

10. *Urges* States to take all necessary measures, including enacting and enforcing legislation to prohibit female genital mutilation and protect girls and women from this form of violence, and to end impunity;

11. *Also urges* States to develop social and psychological support services and care and to take measures to improve health, including sexual and reproductive health, in order to assist women and girls who are subjected to this violence;

12. *Calls upon* States to develop policies, protocols and rules to ensure the effective implementation of national legislative frameworks on eliminating discrimination and violence against girls, in particular female genital mutilation, and to put in place adequate accountability mechanisms at national and local levels to monitor adherence to, and implementation of, these legislative frameworks;

13. *Also calls upon* States to develop unified methods and standards for data collection on all forms of discrimination and violence against girls, especially forms that are underdocumented such as female genital mutilation, and to develop additional indicators to effectively measure progress in eliminating female genital mutilation;

14. *Urges* States to allocate sufficient resources to the implementation of legislation and action plans aimed at abandoning female genital mutilation;

15. *Calls upon* States to develop, support and implement comprehensive and integrated strategies for the prevention of female genital mutilation, including the

training of social workers, medical personnel and other relevant professionals, as well as programmes of alternative professional training for the practitioners;

16. *Calls upon* the international community, the relevant United Nations entities and civil society to actively support, through the allocation of appropriate financial resources, targeted, innovative programmes and to disseminate best practices that address the needs and priorities of girls in vulnerable situations, such as that of female genital mutilation, who have difficulties accessing services and programmes;

17. *Encourages* all decision makers, at all levels, with responsibilities for policies, legislation, programmes and allocation of public resources to play leadership roles in eliminating female genital mutilation;

18. *Encourages* men and boys to continue to take positive initiatives and to work in partnership with women and girls to combat violence against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, through networks, peer programmes, information campaigns and training programmes;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General, to ensure that all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, individually and collectively, take into account the protection and promotion of the rights of girls against female genital mutilation in their country programmes, as appropriate, and in accordance with national priorities, in order to further strengthen their efforts in this regard;

20. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the implementation of the present resolution by using information provided by Member States and verifiable information provided by organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and by non-governmental organizations, with a view to assessing the impact of the present resolution on the well being of girls.



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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and
to the special session of the General Assembly entitled
"Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace
for the twenty-first century"

United States of America: draft resolution

Forced and early marriage

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the obligations of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stated in the Charter of the United Nations and guided by the purposes and principles of human rights instruments,

Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that men and women of full age have the right to marry and to found a family, and that marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses,

Concerned that there is a gap between countries' customs, traditions and practices and their laws, as some nations in which forced and early marriage occurs have laws establishing a minimum age of marriage,

Recognizing that early childbearing continues to be an impediment to improvement in the educational, economic and social status of women in all parts of the world, and that forced and early marriage and early motherhood can severely curtail educational and employment opportunities and are likely to have a long-term, adverse impact on the quality of the lives of women and those of their children,

Recognizing that forced and early marriage contributes to girls' faring disproportionately worse than boys in terms of access to primary school,

Recognizing also that motherhood at a very young age entails complications during pregnancy and delivery and a risk of maternal death that is much greater than average,



Recognizing further that forced and early marriage increases the risk of HIV infection,

Concerned that forced and early marriage can involve threatening behaviour, abduction, imprisonment, physical violence, rape and even murder,

Recognizing that women who marry at a young age are more likely to experience domestic violence than women who marry at an older age, resulting from their lack of status and power in the marriage and household,

Recognizing also that forced and early marriage undercuts international efforts to fight poverty and HIV/AIDS and to improve maternal and child health, survival and welfare,

1. *Urges States:*

(a) To enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses and, in addition, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum age of consent and the minimum age for marriage and raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary,

(b) To adopt and enforce requirements for registration of birth and marriage, with the aim of definitively determining age at the time of marriage,

(c) To include in their reports to human rights treaty bodies, as appropriate, information on national efforts to address forced and early marriage,

(d) To increase access to and encourage completion of primary and secondary education for married and unmarried girls,

(e) To establish educational programmes and develop teaching materials and textbooks, as appropriate, that will sensitize and inform women, girls, men and boys about the harmful effects of forced and early marriage,

(f) To train law enforcement and judiciary officials on forced and early marriage laws and their effective implementation;

2. *Urges States and the United Nations system:*

(a) To develop a national strategy of prevention and treatment to effectively address the condition of obstetric fistula and to further develop a multisectoral, comprehensive and integrated approach to bring about lasting solutions and a meaningful response to the problem of obstetric fistula and related morbidities,

(b) To integrate prevention initiatives against forced and early marriage into international development programmes to further health, education and employment,

(c) To monitor progress in efforts to address forced and early marriage through the regular collection, analysis, and dissemination of data, and to work towards overcoming the challenges of collecting information on the practice;

3. *Invites Governments, as well as the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors:*

(a) To conduct public education and awareness campaigns to raise awareness about the causes and consequences of forced and early marriage and the benefits of delaying marriage, especially keeping in mind those who may be in positions of

particular influence to help eradicate forced and early marriage, including parents, teachers and religious leaders,

(b) To sensitize the girl child, parents, teachers and society concerning good general health and nutrition and raise awareness of the health dangers and other problems connected with early pregnancies,

(c) To increase access to health care by providing medical facilities, training for health care workers, equipment, supplies and transportation in communities that practice forced and early marriage,

(d) To support and expand nutrition and immunization programmes for young mothers and their children,

(e) To address the needs of young married girls regarding family planning and HIV/AIDS prevention, care, testing and treatment programmes,

(f) To establish shelters offering counselling and education services for girls who escape forced and early marriages,

(g) To support programmes to eliminate violence against women.

(h) To continue to study the links between forced and early marriage and poverty; customs, traditions and practices; health; education; and economic empowerment;

4. *Invites* non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors:

(a) To advocate at the local, national, regional and international levels on forced and early marriage, including through building and strengthening networks among those who may call attention to its adverse consequences,

(b) To increase coordination and cooperation in addressing forced and early marriage, and continue to present their observations and conclusions to Governments;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-second session, to include information on forced and early marriage, and encourages Governments to cooperate with the Secretary-General by providing precise data on the subject.

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**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women
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"Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace
for the twenty-first century"**

United States of America: draft resolution**Forced and early marriage**

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the obligations of all States to promote and protect the human rights of women, including girls, and recalling relevant human rights instruments in this regard, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women¹ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,²

Reaffirming also its commitment to the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Recognizing that violence against women and girls impedes the social and economic development of communities and States as well as the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions on the rights of the child, the most recent of which is resolution 61/146 of 19 December 2006,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,³ which states that men and women of full age have the right to marry and to found a family and that marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses, and concerned that in many countries the Universal Declaration of Human

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

³ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).



Rights is violated as marriages occur without the free and full consent of the intending spouses, primarily the girl child and young girls,

Recognizing the serious, immediate and long-term implications for health, including sexual and reproductive health, as well as an increased vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, and the negative impact on the psychological, social and economic development that violence against women and girls represents for individuals, families, communities and States,

Concerned that in spite of existing national laws establishing the minimum age of marriage, harmful traditional or customary practices of early and forced marriage still take place,

Recognizing that poverty and the absence of economic opportunities and autonomy, including in particular in rural areas, as well as lack of access to education, increase the vulnerability of young women and girls and are thus among the main contributing factors to the practice of early and forced marriages,

Deeply concerned about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access for girls to education, nutrition and physical and mental health care and in girls enjoying fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys and often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices, such as female infanticide, rape, incest, early marriage, forced marriage, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation,

Recognizing that forced early marriages and early childbearing continue to impede improvements in the educational, economic and social status of women in all parts of the world, and that forced and early marriage and early motherhood can severely curtail their educational and employment opportunities and are likely to have a long-term, adverse impact on the quality of their lives and the lives of their children,

Recognizing also that forced and early marriage, among other factors, contributes to girls faring disproportionately worse than boys in terms of access to primary school in some countries,

Recognizing further that forced early marriage has adverse psychological effects on girls and that early pregnancy and early motherhood entail complications during pregnancy and delivery and a risk of maternal morbidity and mortality that is much greater than average, and deeply concerned that early childbearing and limited access to sexual and reproductive health care, including in the area of emergency obstetric care, cause high levels of obstetric fistula and maternal mortality and morbidity,

Recognizing that forced marriage, early marriage and early sexual activity increase the risk of HIV infection and other sexually transmitted infections,

Concerned that forced marriage and early marriage can involve threatening behaviour, abduction and imprisonment, physical, psychological and sexual violence, rape, and even murder,

Recognizing that women who marry at a young age are more likely to experience domestic violence than women who marry at an older age as a result of

gender inequalities, in particular their lack of status and power in the marriage and household,

Recognizing also that forced early marriage undermines international and national efforts to fight poverty and HIV/AIDS and to improve maternal and child health, chances for survival, and welfare,

1. *Urges* States:

(a) To enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses and, in addition, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage and to raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

(b) To adopt and enforce requirements for registration of birth and marriage with the aim of definitively determining age at the time of marriage;

(c) To include in their reports to human rights treaty bodies, as appropriate, information on national efforts to address forced marriage and early marriage;

(d) To ensure that, by the earliest possible date, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education in order to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals, and to create an enabling environment in order to retain girls and young women in school;

(e) To design and implement educational programmes at all levels and develop information campaigns as well as teaching materials and textbooks, as appropriate, that will sensitize and inform women, girls, men and boys about the illegality and harmful effects of forced marriage and early marriage;

(f) To develop and implement at all levels a multisectoral, multidisciplinary, comprehensive and integrated strategy of prevention of and support to girls who have entered into forced early marriage, including the training of, inter alia, health workers, teachers, law enforcement personnel, military personnel, social workers, the judiciary, community leaders and the media, on forced and early marriage laws and their effective implementation;

(g) To promote policies and measures aimed at the economic empowerment of young women, especially those living in rural and remote areas, inter alia, by increasing their access to economic resources, enhancing the employability of young women, developing their skills and broadening their access to career choices as well as by facilitating better reconciliation of work and family life;

(h) To ensure that the rights of children to express themselves and participate in matters affecting them, in accordance with their age and maturity, are fully and equally enjoyed by girls;

(i) To monitor progress in efforts to address forced and early marriage through the collection and analysis of age- and sex-disaggregated data, and to disseminate information on the causes and consequences of forced and early marriage;

2. *Urges* States and relevant funds, programmes and entities within the United Nations system:

(a) To develop a national strategy of prevention and treatment to effectively address morbidities, including obstetric fistula, and to further develop a multisectoral, multidisciplinary, comprehensive and integrated approach to ensure equal access to the provision of health care and to bring about lasting solutions and a meaningful response to the problem of obstetric fistula and related morbidities;

(b) To integrate prevention initiatives against forced and early marriage into international development programmes to further health, education and employment;

(c) To encourage research aimed at exploring the nature, extent and causes, including the root causes, of early and forced marriage, to monitor progress in efforts to address forced marriage and early marriage through the regular collection, analysis and dissemination of data, and to work towards overcoming the challenges of collecting information on the practice;

(d) To give increased attention to national capacity-building, where necessary, in order to overcome the challenges of collecting information on these practices;

3. *Invites* States, and encourages, as appropriate, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors, with the support of the international community, as appropriate:

(a) To conduct public education and awareness campaigns to raise awareness about the causes and consequences of forced marriage and early marriage and the benefits of delaying marriage, especially keeping in mind those who may be in positions of particular influence to help eradicate forced marriage and early marriage, including parents, teachers, and religious leaders;

(b) To support and allocate resources for programmes to strengthen preventive action, in particular education for women and men as well as for boys and girls, on gender equality, self-respect and mutual respect, and for campaigns to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels;

(c) To sensitize the girl child, men and boys, parents, legal guardians, families, teachers, community and religious leaders and society concerning good general health and nutrition and raise awareness of the adverse health consequences and other problems connected with early pregnancy and early childbirth;

(d) To encourage men and boys to continue to take positive initiatives to eliminate gender stereotypes and harmful attitudes and practices, such as forced early marriage;

(e) To increase access to health care by providing medical facilities, training for health-care workers, including traditional birth attendants, equipment, supplies and transportation in communities that practise forced and early marriage;

(f) To address the needs of girls regarding family planning and sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS prevention, care, testing and treatment programmes;

(g) To establish shelters offering counselling and education services for girls who escape forced and early marriages and to support and develop programmes to reintegrate them socially and educationally;

(h) To establish and support international, regional and national programmes, as appropriate, and take action to eliminate forced and early marriage as part of an integrated comprehensive and multisectoral approach to violence against women and girls;

(i) To continue to study the links between poverty, underdevelopment and certain harmful practices, such as forced early marriage as well as the links between such practices and customs and traditions, health, education and economic empowerment;

4. *Encourages* the international community, including bilateral donors and multilateral development organizations, to assist developing countries in ensuring the provision of basic social services for women and girls;

5. *Reiterates* that the eradication of poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries, and recognizes that chronic poverty remains the single biggest obstacle to meeting the needs and protecting and promoting the rights of girls, and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to eliminate it;

6. *Invites* non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors:

(a) To continue to advocate at the local, national, regional and international levels against forced marriage and early marriage, including through building and strengthening networks among those who may call attention to its adverse consequences;

(b) To continue to increase coordination and cooperation in addressing forced marriage and early marriage, and to continue to present their observations and conclusions to Governments;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women
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for the twenty-first century"**

Republic of Korea and the United States of America: draft resolution**Elimination of harmful practices of prenatal sex selection and
female infanticide**

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the obligations of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights instruments,

Recalling also that the Beijing Platform for Action¹ and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development² recognize that son preference, combined with the increasing use of technologies to determine foetal sex, is resulting in the abortion of female foetuses in a number of countries, and call for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against the girl child and the root causes of son preference, which result in harmful practices, such as prenatal sex selection and female infanticide,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/141 of 16 December 2005 and all relevant resolutions, in particular those relevant to the girl child,

Recognizing also that son preference is rooted in gender inequality which may be closely linked to social, economic and political causes and, in this regard, bearing in mind that the empowerment of women, especially girls, is critical to eradicate the harmful practices of prenatal sex selection and female infanticide,

¹ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

² *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.



Emphasizing that manifestations of son preference that result in prenatal sex selection and female infanticide are an underdocumented form of discrimination against the girl child and have significant repercussions on society as a whole, expressed in high rates of female infant mortality and distorted male-female sex ratios, and noting with concern the adverse social consequences of such practices, including trafficking in persons, and that some of those harmful practices, especially in rural areas, are linked to poverty and underdevelopment,

Welcoming the efforts of Governments to raise public awareness of those harmful practices and their efforts to establish policies, programmes and best practices to address this problem,

1. *Strongly condemns* all acts of discrimination and violence against the girl child, including those forms of discrimination which result in harmful practices of prenatal sex selection and female infanticide, and expresses concern about the potentially devastating long-term impact of such practices on the demographic pattern;

2. *Calls upon* States to take measures to eliminate such harmful practices which discriminate against the girl child including steps to:

(a) Strengthen advocacy and awareness-raising programmes on harmful practices and provide support to efforts at both the national and subnational levels to end them;

(b) Integrate a comprehensive understanding of the causes and consequences of discrimination and violence against girls, in particular harmful practices, into education and training curricula, as appropriate;

(c) Develop programmes and policies that empower and support the role of family members, especially parents and other legal guardians, in protecting the health and well-being of girls and in ensuring that the intrinsic value of girls to their families and societies is recognized;

(d) Empower women, particularly girls living outside the protective structures of the family, girls living in conditions of poverty and girls with disabilities, through, inter alia, social and economic policies that provide equal access to quality education and social services;

3. *Invites* civil society actors, including non-governmental organizations, to conduct public education and awareness campaigns to foster norms and traditions of zero tolerance for discriminatory attitudes of son preference that result in harmful manifestations, such as prenatal sex selection and female infanticide;

4. *Urges* States and the United Nations system to give increased attention to the need for systematic gender specific research and the collection, analysis and dissemination of data focusing on sex selective abortion and female infanticide, and on the impact and effectiveness of policies and programmes for combating those forms of discrimination and violence;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-second session, to include specific information on actions the United Nations is taking to eliminate harmful practices of prenatal sex selection and female infanticide, and encourages Governments to cooperate with the Secretary-General by providing precise data on the subject.